

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 031
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS VIENNA 1262

USIA FOR IPS, IBS, I23, IOP/M

STATE FOR EUR/SE AND EUR/CE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, AU, OVIP (CLIFFORD, CLARK M.)
SUBJECT: CLIFFORD MISSION: COMMENTS TO PRESS ON ARRIVAL VIENNA
AIRPORT, FIRDAY 16, 1977 AT 11:00 HOURS

TRANSCRIPT OF REMARKS:

QUESTION (POSSANNER, DIE PRESSE, VIENNA): MR. CLIFFORD,
AFTER SECRETARY WALDHEIM HAS REACHED A BREAKTHROUGH IN
CYPRUS, WHAT IS LEFT OPEN FOR YOU NOW, WHAT IS LEFT OPEN
FOR THE UNITED STATES?

CLIFFORD: FIRST LET ME SAY, IT'S GOOD TO BE IN VIENNA AGAIN,
FOR I FIRST CAME HERE, I MUST CONFESS, IT'S NOW FIFTY YEARS
AGO, AND I AM DELIGHTED TO RETURN TO IT. I LOOK FORWARD
TO MY VISIT WITH SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM. TOMORROW
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WE WILL DISCUSS IN DETAIL THE DEVELOPMENTS THAT HAVE
TAKEN PLACE WITH REFERENCE TO CYPRUS. WE ARE GRATIFIED
THAT HE IS MAKING THE PROGRESS THAT HE HAS. AS YOU KNOW
FROM YOUR REPORTS HERE, MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD AND WE
HOPE THAT THERE IS A REAL BREAKTHROUGH. HE HAS ARRANGED,
IN ADDITION TO THESE PAST MEETINGS, FUTURE MEETINGS THAT
WILL BE HELD BETWEEN THE PARTIES IN MARCH HERE IN VIENNA.

ASLO TOMORROW I LOOK FORWARD WITH REAL PLEASURE TO PRESENTING TO CHANCELLOR KREISKY THE REGARDS OF OUR NEW PRESIDENT, PRESIDENT CARTER, WHO ASKED THAT I CONVEY TO CHANCELLOR KREISKY HIS PERSONAL RESPECTS AND HIS REGARD, AND TO COMMENT AGAIN UPON THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT HAVE EXISTED FOR SO LONG BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND THE UNITED STATES. SO WE ARE DELIGHTED TO BE HERE, WE HOPE THAT OUR MEETING TOMORROW WILL ADD PROGRESS TO THE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS THAT EXIST IN CYPRUS. NOW PERHAPS A QUESTION OR TWO MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE, AND I'LL BE READY FOR THEM.

QUESTION (REED, CBS): MR. CLIFFORD, DO YOU ANTICIPATE ANY DIFFICULTY SINCE RAUF DENKTASH, HE IS A LEADER OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS, HAS SAID THE BEST THING THE UNITED STATES COULD DO IS TO STAY OUT OF IT.

CLIFFORD: NO, I DON'T ANTICIPATE ANY DIFFICULTY IN THAT REGARD, I BELIEVE THAT OUR OFFICES WILL BE USEFUL. WE DO NOT HAVE ANY PREPARED FORMULA THAT WE WOULD PRESENT TO THE PEOPLE. WE ARE HERE BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT WE MIGHT BE USEFUL TO THE PARTIES IN REACHING A SETTLEMENT. OUR PROGRAM PROVIDES FOR A MEETING THAT I WILL HAVE WITH MR. DENKTASH. I THINK WE WILL HAVE A VERY FULL AND FRANK DISCUSSION AT THAT TIME. I WILL ALSO HAVE A MEETING WITH ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS, AND I THINK OUT OF THOSE MEETINGS MIGHT VERY WELL COME HOPES FOR A BETTER UNDERSTANDING.

QUESTION (HENNERBICHLER, AUSTRIAN RADIO): WELL, SIR, BACK TO THE QUESTION OF MY COLLEAGUE. THE PROBLEM IS, YOU ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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COMING NOT WITH A SPECIAL FORMULA FOR CYPRUS. COULD YOU MAKE IT CLEAR: THE INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES, IS IT AT FIRST CYPRUS OR IS IT THE NATO AND THE DEFENSE SYSTEM?

CLIFFORD: WE HAVE A GREAT INTEREST IN CYPRUS AND WE ALWAYS HAVE HAD, AND IT IS OUR HOPE THAT WITH REFERENCE TO CYPRUS, THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO ADD SOMETHING TO THE CONTRIBUTION THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS MADE. I THINK ALL OF THE NATIONS OF EUROPE ARE INTERESTED IN A SETTLEMENT IN CYPRUS, AS ARE WE IN THE UNITED STATES. WHILE WE ARE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD, WE WILL HAVE VISITS IN GREECE AND TURKEY WITH REFERENCE TO BILATERAL UNDERSTANDINGS WITH BOTH OF THOSE NATIONS, SO THAT IT IS AN EVIDENCE OF THE INTEREST THE UNITED STATES HAS IN HOPING THAT ALL OF THE NATIONS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN WILL BE ABLE TO SETTLE THEIR DISPUTES. THAT IS OUR HOPE AND THIS IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF OUR INTEREST IN ACHIEVING WHAT END.

QUESTION (HENNERBICHLER, AUSTRIAN RADIO): ... AND THE NATO PROBLEM, THE SECOND PART OF MY QUESTION?

CLIFFORD: WELL, WITH REFERENCE TO NATO, INSO FAR AS CYPRUS
IS CONCERNED, THAT IS NOT INVOLVED AT ALL. OUR INTEREST
IN GREECE AND TURKEY OBVIOUSLY INVOLVES NATO. CYPRUS
DOES NOT INVOLVE NATO AT ALL. I THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR
YOUR VERY CORDIAL RECEPTION. BUCHANAN

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